

He also requested that a manure depot be opened at a convenient and central place in the taluk at an early date, since the want of it was keenly felt by the people.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's suggestion regarding grazing grounds will be referred to the Dewan Peishkar, Quilon and the Conservator of Forests. A report will also be called for from the Director of Agriculture about the need for a manure depot for the Quilon taluk.

49. Agricultural difficulties of the Shencotta taluk and suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. S. Subramonia Karayalar, B. A. (Member, Shencotta taluk) pointed out the following difficulties in the system of cultivation in the Shencotta taluk and suggested the necessary remedies for the same :—

The first difficulty was in getting a good supply of water. The rainfall in the taluk was very poor and that was the main cause of the difficulty. Even the little rain water obtainable in the taluk was not properly stored up in time for want of sufficiently big tanks. The existing tanks in the taluk were not capacious enough to hold the desirable quantity of water. Apart from the general repairs done to the tanks, no attempt was made by the Tank Restoration Scheme Party to increase the capacity of the tanks. He suggested that, if possible, the Palaruvi river or the Parapar or Achenkoil river should be diverted and rendered fit for irrigation purposes. If the above diversion of the said streams was not practicable, he suggested that common reservoirs be constructed at convenient places to serve common purposes when tanks and canals of particular *puravus* failed to irrigate the lands. He requested that the whole matter might be investigated by the Tank Restoration Scheme Party and a report called for by the Government.

The next difficulty related to the absence of improved methods of cultivation. There were no cartable roads to carry manure to the fields. There were no pasture lands for cattle. Manuring was very perfunctorily done for want of proper manure. To alleviate the difficulties, he suggested

(i) that large areas of forests should be thrown open as pasture lands and for supplying the necessary agricultural implements ;

(ii) that the existing roads be made fit for traffic ;

(iii) that a manure depot be established at Shencotta, together with a demonstration farm ; and

(iv) that a Veterinary Hospital too be opened in the taluk.

The third difficulty arose from the right exercised and claimed by the ryots of the Tinnevely District to the water of some of the tanks and canals in Shencotta. The Member pointed out that the ryots of Shencotta taluk had the absolute right to use the entire water within the limits of Shencotta and that the surplus water alone was used by the Tenkasi ryots. The latter now claimed as a matter of right a portion of that water, and they even objected to the conversion of dry lands into wet, to the raising of the water-level of the tanks in the Shencotta taluk and the construction of reservoirs for increasing the storage of water. The Member cited the instance of the Kalangathakandy channel, and stated that the British ryots claimed two-fifths of the water in the channel, as if they had acquired a right to it by prescription. He urged that the Travancore Government should interfere at once and establish their right to use the whole of the water within the taluk in whatever way they chose. Lastly, he requested that all the irrigation works in the taluk should be declared "major" works as in the Padmanabhapuram Division, and that the ryots of the taluk be exempted from the liability to contribute towards the cost of the works.

The Member also presented a copy of the memorial submitted to the Dewan during his last tour to the taluk by the ryots of Ayikudi, Klangad and Samburvada-kara, complaining about the omission in the new Remission Rules of the right of the above *pakuthies* to remission of tax on account of *tharisu* and *nanjamel puncha*. He referred to the Proceedings of Government in Review Case No. 19 of 1983 and urged that, where dry crops were raised on wet lands, only one-half of the tax should be recovered and that, in cases in which the lands were left fallow, the entire assessment should be remitted. He requested that the petition might be considered

and the rules modified so as to make provision for the grant of remission of tax in the cases referred to. In that connection, he also urged the need for a clear definition of the term *manipidi*, so as to remove the doubts and misapprehensions of local officers in the matter of granting remission. In his view, the lands should not be treated as *manipidi* and remission refused in cases in which the corns gathered from the land did not yield enough paddy to meet the quantity of seed, the cost of harvest and the land-tax payable to the Government. Similarly, remission should be allowed to lands the crops on which were protected by water from wells sunk by the ryots themselves.

Lastly, the Member said that the dealings of the ryots of the taluk being mostly with the British villagers, the *edangali* and *pāra* measures were of no use in the taluk. He requested that the measures in use in the Tenkasi taluk should be introduced in Shencotta.

Dewan's reply.—The Government have already promised to open a manure depot at Shencotta. That will be done as soon as funds become available. In regard to the improvement of the roads for agricultural traffic, the Member is referred to the programme of roads for the Quilon Division from which it will be seen that the roads for the taluk come as item No. 10. The other representations made by the Member will be referred to the heads of departments concerned for report.

50. Improvement of the condition of the ryots of the State.

Mr. R. Parasurama Iyer (Member, Kunnathur taluk) dwelt at length on the several causes which contributed to the decline of agriculture in the State and to the poverty of its people and pointed out how the scientific development of the resources of the country would improve the condition of the ryots. He made the following suggestions for the consideration of the Government to improve their condition:—

(1) Lands fit for cultivation and lying within reserved forests like the Kodumon Reserve should be excluded from the reserve and brought under registry. Similarly, lands under water bordering the back-waters should also be registered to applicants. There was great demand for land and the extension of cultivation should be encouraged.

(2) The enhancement of the rates of *tharavila* and assessment on *puduvai* lands had materially affected the ryots and discouraged them from going in for new lands. The rates should be reduced.

(3) Irrigation works should be carried out in aid of agriculture and the ryots made to contribute a portion of the cost.

(4) The State should be divided into several agricultural districts and sub-districts presided over by competent professional men. Each sub-district should have a laboratory to analyse soils and manures and also a demonstration and experimental farm.

(5) Agriculture should be taught in schools by qualified men, preferably through the officer in charge of the sub-districts.

(6) Popular lectures on agricultural subjects should be organised throughout the country.

(7) In each of the proposed agricultural sub-districts, there should be an agricultural exhibition and cattle show at least once every year.

(8) The officers in charge of the sub-districts should have the power to grant agricultural loans up to a certain money limit.

(9) The existing manure depots were too few for the State and their number should be increased so as to meet the demands of the people.

(10) Grazing grounds should be reserved wherever such lands were not available.

(11) The Department of Agriculture should have the control of all tanks, canals, grazing grounds and other *poramboles* directly useful for agricultural purposes.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

51. The creation of an agricultural board for the taluk.

Mr. S. Subramonia Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Haripad) pointed out that the Karthigapai taluk was a purely agricultural one and said that the following were the